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Review: A Japanese Pilgrim in Tibet

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Though discovery in its full sense is scarcely the word to be used in connection with his travels, Hedin has undoubtedly made great additions to our knowledge of these parts. By traversing in several directions the corrugated mass of hills which lie within the blank portion of the Society's map of Tibet (1906), south of the routes of Nain Singh, Bower, Littledale, and others, and north of the Tsangpo or Brahmaputra, he has unquestionably reduced the space which bears the word "UNEXPLORED." For this he is entitled to our warm congratulations and thanks, though, with Colonel Burrard, we realize that at present we have to be content with approximations to truth; in respect, however, to the discoveries of the chief sources of the Indus, Sutlej, and Brahmaputra, whilst fully recognizing the value of his work, we hold that claims to have found the true source of this river or that are of little value. The source or sources of every river are the areas of the catchment basin, the ultimate source being the rain or snowfall. One source or channel may carry more water one day, another more the next, and to dogmatize as to one stream rather than another being the true source of a river is unprofitable at any time, and probably incorrect till minute and accurate surveys have been made and discharges observed.

The author is anxious to have the range through which he has travelled called Trans-Himalaya, whilst others object to that designation. There is no doubt that name is open to objection for the sufficient reason that when placed north of it, it becomes Cis-Himalaya; yet many persons well qualified to form an opinion are content that it should be adopted. In this country the feeling seems to be that the name does not matter much, and therefore the traveller's wish may be respected; in India it is believed that the senior officers of the Survey Department dislike the name, preferring the old name, Kailás range. The dispute is one of those matters which, if left alone, will settle itself.

It may be noted that the author, whilst paying deserved tributes to the Survey officers and to the pundits who visited the country many years ago, has a somewhat unfortunate way of referring to the relative importance of his work and theirs. This is a pity; when the country is accurately surveyed—should that ever happen—his present sketch-maps will be found to require many corrections, yet that does not detract from their present value.

The volumes, which have been rapidly put together, would have gained by judicious compression; even as they are, the story is incomplete and a third volume is promised; but it is fair to add that they abound in interest and will appeal to a considerable and important section of the public. It is not quite clear whether Sir Sven Hedin—for he is now K.C.I.E.—is responsible for the English edition; an announcement was made in the *Athenæum* that "the rendering it embodies was made for Messrs. Macmillan & Co. by Mr. W. A. Taylor." This is not very clear, but, anyhow, there are few mistakes, and they are of little consequence. The illustrations are numerous and good, those from the author's pencil being conclusive as to his artistic skill. The publishers, too, are to be congratulated on the good type and general turn-out of the book.

W. BROADFOOT.

A JAPANESE PILGRIM IN TIBET.

'Three Years in Tibet.' By the Shramana Ekai Kawaguchi. London and Madras: Theosophical Publishing Co. 1909. *Map and Illustrations.* Price 16s. net.

This narrative, from the pen of a Japanese monk, deals with three years' exploration and residence in Tibet. Much of its peculiar interest arises from the fact that it presents us with a faithful picture of that strange country from an Asiatic and not from a European point of view, and thus reminds us strongly of Sarat Chandra Das's well-known journals. The similitude is not surprising

considering that the author spent most of the year 1898 in Darjeeling, and thus had the advantage of receiving both instruction and counsel from the redoubtable S.C.D., who appears to enjoy quite a dignified position there. Mr. Kawaguchi then passed on to Tsarang, in Nepal, where he stayed about fourteen months. All this time he was diligently studying Tibetan, so that when he finally set off for the forbidden land by a pass leading in the direction of Lake Manasarowar, he had quite mastered the Tibetan language. His route lay round the lake and Mount Kailas, and then eastward to Lhasa, along the northern side of the Sanpo by way of Tadum and Shigatze. In the course of this journey the author suffered extraordinary privations owing to inadequate equipment, as well as to the fact that for the first part of the route his only companions were two sheep, which carried his provisions and stores. On arrival at Lhasa, he applied for admission to the Sera monastery, and through his knowledge of the Buddhist scriptures and skill as a doctor he established a good reputation and became very popular. Eventually he was presented to the Dalai Lama, who received him very favourably. This was previous to the despatch of the Younghusband Expedition, and the prevalent feeling at that time was strongly anti-British. The daily life in Lhasa, the manners and customs of the Tibetans, their trade and industries, and the curious negotiations with Russia, culminating in the despatch of several camel-loads of firearms and ammunition,—all these topics are handled in most interesting fashion. Mr. Kawaguchi's book is put together with more literary skill than Sarat Chandra Das's older narratives, and its fuller and more recent information combine to make it probably the best and most up-to-date description of a country which is bound for some time to come to exercise a mysterious fascination over the Western reader.

AFRICA.

THE PARTITION OF AFRICA.

'The Map of Africa by Treaty.' By the late Sir E. Hertslet, K.C.B. Third edition, in three volumes, and a collection of maps. Revised and completed to the end of 1908 by R. W. Brant, Librarian and Keeper of the Papers, and H. L. Sherwood, of the Foreign Office. London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by Harrison & Sons, St. Martin's Lane. Price £3.

Sir Edward Hertslet's 'The Map of Africa by Treaty' was first published in 1895; a year later a revised edition appeared. Since 1896 changes of importance in the political colouring of the map have been made, such as the wresting of the Eastern Sudan from the Khalifa and the renunciation by Italy of her claim to a protectorate over Abyssinia. Minor changes, caused chiefly by the delimitation of boundaries, have been very numerous. Hence the appearance of a third edition of the book is very welcome. The work of revision has been ably accomplished by Messrs. Brant and Sherwood, who have included all treaties and agreements involving territorial changes in Africa concluded down to the end of 1908. The first volume is now devoted entirely to British colonies, protectorates, and other possessions. These have been grouped in three distinct divisions: (1) West Africa, (2) South and Central Africa, (3) East Africa. (The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, which owns a double sovereignty, is given under Egypt.) In the second edition, British possessions had been given alphabetically, and were not placed in a separate volume. The new arrangement will be found convenient. In this first volume can be traced the successive steps by which the boundaries of British possessions have been fixed, references being given to the texts of the agreements between Great Britain and other Powers contained in volumes 2 and 3, where also will be found all treaties between states other than the United Kingdom. Colonel Close's valuable map